



PICKUP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF AUPE LOCAL 52
Issue 2 // February 2023

In this issue:

- 1 Party Time...
- 2 AGM
- 2 Our Collective Agreement
- 3 Safety
- 3 Fellow Members
- 3 IDE Lunch & Learns
- 3 Calgary Area Council Perks
- 4 The Red Family



PARTY TIME...

This December, Local 52 once again held in-person Winter Celebration Parties for adults and children after a long hiatus. A BIG thanks goes out to our Local 52 Chair, Justin Huseby, for being up all night getting the floors tarped, outlets set up, getting blow-ups in place, and for purchasing the swag.

Second big thanks go to all of the volunteers who came out at 6:30 in the morning to help set up and to those who helped tear down, as well as those who registered guests and ensured everyone had a good time! These parties cannot run without the amazing volunteers that we get to assist us in getting everything set up!

Thank you! And a big thanks to Student's Union for the amazing food! Here's looking forward to more parties, BBQs, and other get togethers!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS (AGM)

It is that time of year. February Reading Week is when each Local 52 Chapter holds its AGM. This is the most important meeting to attend for Local members for a number of reasons. Not only is it a chance to hear reports from Chapter Officers and learn about the proposed budget, ask questions of the Local and Chapter chairs and the AUPE Vice President, this year is also an election year! It will be time to vote for your Chapter's Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary. These positions are held for two-year terms.

Also, these AGMs are your only chance to express your interest in attending the annual AUPE Convention this fall. You can put your name forward to be a Convention Delegate or Alternate nominee. Convention is the key meeting for the entire union and it is where an entire year's business is decided upon. Attending is an amazing experience and you get time off work to do so. ***It is also important to note that according to your collective agreement, you are entitled to an extended lunch so you can attend your Chapter AGM.

FEB 21 TUE	FEB 22 WED	FEB 23 THU	FEB 24 FRI
CHAPTER 1 OP/ADMIN	CHAPTER 2* TRADES/GENERAL	CHAPTER 3 SPECIALIST/ ADVISOR	CHAPTER 4 TECHNICAL

NOON – 1:30 PM:

HYBRID MEETINGS, IN SCIENCE THEATRES (ST 135) AND ON ZOOM

*Chapter 2 has additional times and locations

Prize draws and lunch provided!

Find more info at aupelocal052.ca/events.

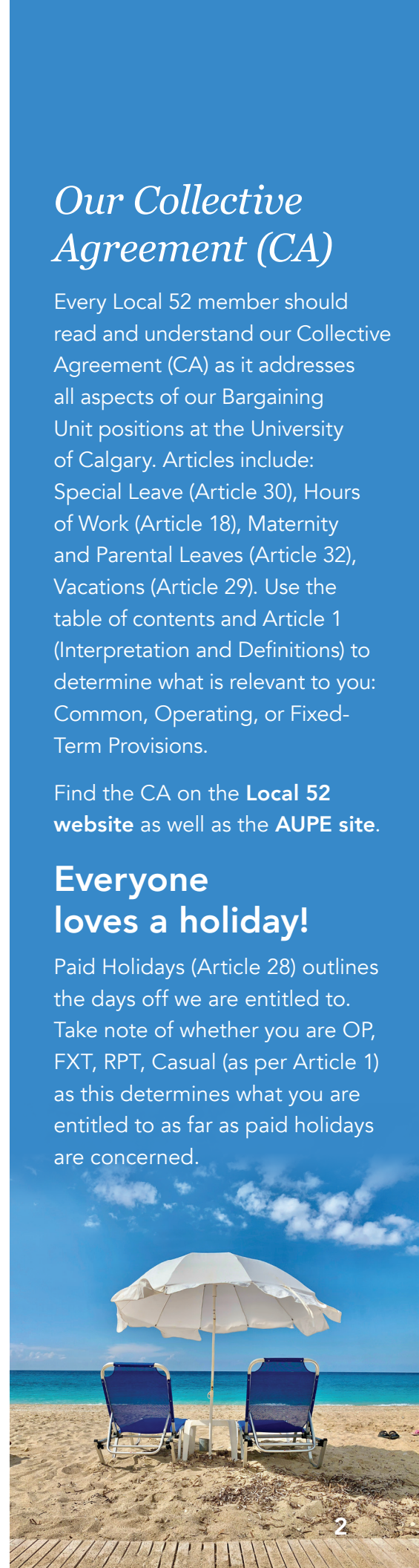
Our Collective Agreement (CA)

Every Local 52 member should read and understand our Collective Agreement (CA) as it addresses all aspects of our Bargaining Unit positions at the University of Calgary. Articles include: Special Leave (Article 30), Hours of Work (Article 18), Maternity and Parental Leaves (Article 32), Vacations (Article 29). Use the table of contents and Article 1 (Interpretation and Definitions) to determine what is relevant to you: Common, Operating, or Fixed-Term Provisions.

Find the CA on the **Local 52 website** as well as the **AUPE site**.


Everyone loves a holiday!

Paid Holidays (Article 28) outlines the days off we are entitled to. Take note of whether you are OP, FXT, RPT, Casual (as per Article 1) as this determines what you are entitled to as far as paid holidays are concerned.



SAFETY

Video: AUPE Today

After you watch  **this video**, I would like you to think of all the safety issues you have seen at work and in your community. What can be done? What can we do? Who can help us? Why should it matter to us?

It all matters because being a member of AUPE means to educate, organize, recruit, recognize and fight back as a community to ensure everyone comes home safe.

FELLOW MEMBERS

This issue's Fellow Members section focuses on **Marla Halsted**, our newly-elected Vice Chair. Marla has been involved the union for many years: she was part of the Negotiating Team, she has volunteered at and helped to coordinate many events, and she is always more than happy to assist with anything that is asked of her.



Marla Halsted,
Vice Chair of Local 52

Her former position was as Treasurer of the Local. She is the presently the Front End Manager/Events Coordinator at Museo Gallery. Marla loves to travel, spending time with her family, and has an amazing craft business on the side. Thank you Marla for everything you do!

Many, many thanks to our previous Vice Chair, Prachi Mishra, who was an incredible asset to our Local. Prachi took on a new position with AUPE. Best of luck, Prachi!

IDE Lunch & Learns

The Local Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (IDE) Committee will be holding Lunch & Learns on a variety of topics.

Sessions are on Zoom, 12 – 1 pm

Email **Paulette Harrison** for more information.

MARCH 01 Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

MARCH 22 Gender, Sexuality and Pronouns

APRIL 12 Stereotypes and Bias

MAY 03 Intersectionality

MAY 24 Macro and Microaggressions

Calgary Area Council Perks



CINEPLEX TICKET SALES
FEB. 25, 10 AM – 2 PM

\$10 cash each, 10 ticket limit per AUPE member



STAGE WEST TICKET SALES MARCH 16

Kids show, June 3 matinee
Sleeping Beauty, \$20/ticket, max. 4

Adults show, June 25 matinee
9 to 5, The Musical \$40/ticket max. 4

Check out the **CAC webpage** and **Facebook page** for upcoming events.



THE RED FAMILY

By Cristina Rai

It is one of the busy mornings. My pace is fast. I am running a bit late, clinging onto the coffee mug for dear life, with my mind already on “solve the problem” mode, thinking of the emails that I have already read while walking towards my office. I raise my head, while my peripheral sight has caught the movement of a large object coming towards me. Friendly eyes behind the blue COVID mask meet mine. The woman behind the mask is dressed in a red shirt with University’s logo on it. She is pushing a cart full of cleaning supplies goodies. I smile at her, say “Hi!” and I can hear a big smile followed by a friendly, resounding: “Hi” coming back. All is well, it is a good morning!

I see the members of the Caretaking Red Team every morning, on my way to the office, quietly passing by, going to their work areas, to make sure that the spaces that we all use are clean and ready for the day. They are an important component of a larger, diverse, workforce puzzle, here at Foothills.

“We are a family, and we have each other’s back” says Silvia, one of the members of the Red Team. Caretaking has colors which identify the areas of responsibility of each team. Red is Cleaning and Washrooms, Green is open areas and cafeteria, Blue is kitchen and offices, and Yellow Team looks after the classrooms and labs.

Last Monday at noon, I went to Foothills Caretaking lunchroom, a space buried in the big belly of the Health Science Centre, lost in the corridors of the complicated basement. I opened the door, smiled and with a voice that was a little nervous, I start explaining that I was there to meet their team and write an article for our local newsletter about Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in action.

This is how I met the Red Team or the Red Family as they like to think of themselves: Herminia, Michael, Sean, Ingrid, Guadalupe, Senayt, Selam, Jenelyn, Zhen, Tsui Fong and Silvia. They are the “morning shift” from 6am to 2pm and all of them have two or even three jobs to be able to sustain their family.

*“We are all mothers,
responsible to provide
for our family.”*

– Sirin, retired Red Team Lead

I got to the lunchroom during their second half hour of break and their last for the day, before the final rush to complete the remaining tasks of the workday. This is their time to eat together, to tell jokes, share laughs and bond. I ask what countries they were originally coming from and share that I, myself, I am an immigrant who came to Canada with a hope for a better life, not too long ago. The globe starts spinning in front of my eyes as I hear the names of each one’s home country: Philippines, Ethiopia, Romania, Venezuela, Eritrea, Mexico, Canada, China. A mix of different cultures, languages, customs and beliefs that make the fabric of the Red Family and in extension, represent the diversity of our university, of our own city. Fragments of conversation paste together the story of their former Team Lead now retired, Sirin, who built the Red Family and made them strong and united.

Sirin came to Canada from the far land of Tibet. She had an intrinsic understanding of human nature that she brought along and used to say to her all-women team at that time: “we are all mothers, responsible to provide for our family.” Sirin spoke to their primal need to care for their children, for family, translated into a good work ethic and an acceptance of each other, that profoundly resonated at a basic level, as the truth that crosses all cultures. Sirin listened, she encouraged where hope was gone, she wiped tears when soul pain was too intense, she helped when there was a cry asking for help, she was there for each one of them, Silvia remembers fondly.

Throughout the past years, men joined the Red Family, newcomers to Canada and younger folks came along, and I can see that Sirin’s legacy lives on in each one of them. There is a warmth that I feel radiating in everyone’s smiles as I look around the room, a genuine almost palpable connection, which transcends race, age, colour of skin, sex, or length of time in the new home country.

I humbly thank each one of them while I take a group picture and say to myself: All is well indeed! It is feels good to spend time with family.

From a January 2023 interview with members of the Red Family, also known as the Caretaking Red Team, responsible for Cleaning and Washrooms.



Local 52 Mailing List

To get the latest updates on bargaining, educational opportunities, events, and more, sign up for the **Local 52 mailing list!**

AUPE LOCAL 52

Science A 117

403.220.8511

aupelocal052.ca

MEMBER RESOURCE CENTRE

1.800.232.7284